

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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O R 061345Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1133
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY SANAA

S E C R E T JIDDA 3197

EXDIS

E.O.: 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP, SA, SO
SUBJ: VISIT OF SOMALI PRESIDENT TO SAUDI ARABIA

REF : JIDDA 3074 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR DISCUSSED VISIT OF SOMALI PRESIDENT
SIAD BARRE, WITH CROWN PRINCE FAHD AND KING KHALID ON
MAY 5. BOTH WERE PLEASED WITH THE VISIT AND SAID THE
COMMUNIQUE (YET TO BE ISSUED) WOULD STATE SOMALI
OPPOSITION TO FOREIGN BASES ON ITS TERRITORY. SIAD
DENIED VIGOROUSLY TO FAHD THAT ANY SOVIET BASES PRESENTLY
EXISTED AND INVITED FAHD TO SEND AN INSPECTION TEAM TO
VERIFY THIS. FAHD INTENDS TO TAKE HIM UP ON THIS AND HAS
REQUESTED OUR ASSISTANCE IN PREPARING AND BRIEFING THE
INSPECTION TEAM. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING THE AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON CROWN PRINCE FAHD
MAY 5 THE VISIT OF SOMALI PRESIDENT SIAD BARRE WAS DIS-
CUSSED AT SOME LENGTH. CROWN PRINCE FAHD WAS NOTICEABLY
PLEASED WITH THE OUTCOME OF THE VISIT. FAHD, MORE THAN
ONCE, REFERRED TO THE COMMUNIQUE WHICH HE SAID WOULD
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BE RELEASED LATER THAT AFTERNOON. (IT HAS STILL NOT

COME OUT, BUT IS SCHEDULED FOR RELEASE 2 P.M. LOCAL.)
FAHD, WHO CLAIMS MOST OF THE CREDIT FOR THE PHRASEOLOGY
OF THE COMMUNIQUE, SAID THAT IT WOULD SHOW THE SOMALI
OPPOSES FOREIGN BASES ON ITS TERRITORY AND WILL NOT
PERMIT ANY FOREIGN POWER TO ESTABLISH LAND, SEA OR AIR
FACILITIES WHICH COULD BE INJURIOUS TO THE AREA AS A
WHOLE OR TO FELLOW ARAB AND MUSLIM PEOPLES. (OTHER
ASPECTS OF SIAD VISIT BY SEPTTEL.)

2. FAHD SAID THAT HE HAD HAD TWO LONG SESSIONS WITH SIAD
BARRE - ON OF THEM A TETE-A-TET - AND THAT HE HAD PRESSED
SIAD HEAVILY ON THE QUESTION OF PERMITTING A STRATEGIC
PART OF AFRICA AND THE ARAB/MUSLIM WORLD TO BECOME A
THRIVING REFUGE FOR COMMUNISTS. FAHD SAID THAT HE HAD
TO OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES (EGYPT, IRAQ, SYRIA) WHICH HAD
ONCE SHORT-SIGHTEDLY GOTTEN TOO CLOSE TO THE COMMUNISTS
AND NOW HAVE SEEN THE ERRORS OF THEIR WAYS. FAHD SAID
THAT HE HAD TOLD SIAD THAT HE UNDERSTANDS THAT SOMALIA
IS A POOR COUNTRY AND THAT SIAD IS TRYING TO IMPROVE THE
LOT OF THE PEOPLE. FAHD SAID SAUDI ARABIA IS WILLING TO
ASSIST IN ACHEIVING THAT GOAL BUT THAT IT WILL HAVE TO
SEE CLEAR EVIDENCE THAT THE AID IT IS PREPARED TO GIVE
WILL NOT BE WASTED OR GO FOR PURPOSES PREJUDICIAL TO
SAUDI INTERESTS.

3. FAHD SAID THAT HE THEN QUESTIONED SIAD SHARPLY ABOUT
THE BASES AND FACILITIES SOMALIA HAD PUT AT THE DISPOSAL
OF THE SOVIET UNION. SIAD STRONGLY AND REPEATEDLY DENIED
THE EXISTENCE OF SUCH BASES. (FAHD SAID THAT THIS WOULD
BY IMPLICATION BE ASSERTED BY THE COMMUNIQUE.) SIAD IN-
VITED FAHD TO SEND A MILITARY DELEGATION TO SOMALIA TO
INSPECT AND OBSERVE THAT THERE ARE NO SOVIET FACILITIES
THERE. IF HE WISHED, HE WAS WELCOME TO GO HIMSELF. FAHD
SAID THAT THOUGH HE WOULDN'T GO HE INTENDED TO SEND A
DELEGATION SHORTLY. HE ASKED OUR ASSISTANCE IN PROVIDING
A BACKGROUND BRIEFING TO THE MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION
WHICH WOULD ENABLE THEM TO CONDUCT A MEANINFUL INSPECTION.

4. THE AMBASSADOR CALLED ON KING KHALID LATER IN THE DAY
AND FOUND HIM TO BE TAKING MOST OF THE CREDIT FOR THE
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HARD LINE WITH SIAD. KHALID POINTED OUT THAT HE HAD
REFUSED TO GO TO THE AIRPORT TO MEET HIM AND HAD ORDERED
CROWN PRINCE FAHD NOT TO GO (SIAD WAS MET BY THE GOVERNOR
OF MECCA, PRINCE FAWWAZ). KHALID ALSO SAID THAT HE HAD
TOLD SIAD REPEATEDLY OF THE DANGERS OF DEALING WITH
COMMUNISTS.

5. COMMENT AND ACTION REQUESTED:

FAHD ALMOST CERTAINLY WAS THE INSPIRATION FOR THE APPROACH TO SIAD. HE WAS PROBABLY GIVEN STRONG SUPPORT BY MINISTER OF DEFENSE PRINCE SULTAN. BUT IT IS COMFORTING THAT THE KING ALSO FOLLOWED THE LINE SO FAITHFULLY.

6. NORMAL SAUDI POLITENESS MIGHT HAVE LED FAHD TO DECLINE THE INVITATION TO SEND AN INSPECTION TEAM SINCE ACCEPTING WOULD BE SUCH A OBVIOUS SIGN THAT HE DOESN'T TRUST SIAD'S WORD. IN THIS CASE, HOWEVER, THE SAUDIS ARE PREPARED TO SEND A DELEGATION. THE SAUDI CONCERN WITH SOMALIA HAS BEEN HEIGHTENED BY REPEATED USG DEMARCHES ON THE SUBJECT - FIRST BY SECRETARY KISSINGER, BUT SUBSEQUENTLY BY THE AMBASSADOR IN HIS MEETINGS WITH THE SAUDIS AND MOST RECENTLY BY DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE CLEMENTS. THE SAUDIS THEREFORE ARE LOOKING TO US FOR GUIDANCE. THEY WILL WANT TO SEND SOMEONE VERY SOON BEFORE INSTALLATIONS COULD BE CHANGED OR REMOVED. WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE ON AN URGENT BASIS:

A) PHOTOGRAPHS AND MAPS OF THE AREAS OF SOVIET INSTALLATIONS WHICH WILL ENABLE THE SAUDI DELEGATION EASILY TO FIND AND IDENTIFY THEM;

B) IF POSSIBLE, SOMEONE TO COME OUT HERE TO BRIEF THE SAUDIS ON WHAT THEY CAN EXPECT TO SEE AND WHAT THEY SHOULD BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR.

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